(b) The accumulated liabilities of Super Bazar as on 1.4.95, 1.4.96 & 1.4.97 were Rs. 22.56 crores, Rs. 24.21 crores and Rs. 22.26 crores respectively. The figures as on October 1, 1997 are not available.

(c) The Super Bazar has informed that they have not incurred any losses from 72-73 to 95-96. The accounts for 96-97 are not yet available.

CMs Conference for Implementation of PDS and TPDS in States

504. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Chief Ministers was called in the Capital on September 30, 1997 to consider implementation of the Public Distribution System and the TPDS in different States and to Consider means to make PDS benefits reach the weaker sections of society;

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the conference; and

(c) the steps taken in persuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision was taken in the Conference. However, there was a consensus on the following issues;

(i) The allocation of foodgrains to the States may be reviewed on the basis of their need. Additional allocations may be made at APL prices.

(ii) Allocation to APL families may not be reduced.

(iii) Fair Price Shop dealers' commission may be increased.

(c) Steps taken in pursuance of points of consensus arrived at in the Conference, Point-wise, are as follows;

(i) Additional allocations are being made to the States over and above the allocations fixed under TPDS keeping in view the special needs due to the deficit in foodgrains production and lack of developed foodgrains markets in certain states. With effect from 1.12.1997 the additional allocations are proposed to be made to such States at APL prices keeping in view of the twin consideration of the overall stock position and limiting the subsidy;

(ii) There is no proposal to reduce allocation to APL families.

Raising the CIP for Foodgrains

505. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased in state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to raise the Central Issue Price (CIP) of foodgrains-wheat and rice by Re. One in return doubling the quantum of foodgrains under TPDS to the persons below the poverty line from ten to twenty kg.;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the details of the decision taken on the basis of allocation to be made under TPDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No such decision has been taken. However, the CIP of Grade 'A' variety of Rice has been readjusted to Rs. 700/- per quintal against Rs. 650/- and Rs. 750/-

for Fine and Superfine varieties of Rice, which have now been categorised together.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

The Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act, 1981

506. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 which regulates the availability of foodgrains and prevents hoarding and black-marketing has lapsed;

(b) if so, the steps taken to revive it;

(c) whether any changes are contemplated in the said Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 has lapsed on 31.8.1997.

(b) to (d) The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1997 has been promulgated by the President on 3.10.1997 containing many of the provisions of the erstwhile E.C. (SP) Act, 1981 alongwith some amendments which include inter-alia, (i) restoration of right of appeal against confiscation order by the District Collector to the judiciary; (ii) making some offences bailable; and (iii) making the bail procedure simpler to conform to the normal CrPc Procedure.

Sugar Imported by Private Traders

507. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar is being imported by private traders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how the foreign exchange in this is to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the current EXIM Policy sugar is allowed to be imported under open general licence (OGL). The importers decide on the transactions based on commercial considerations. Outgo in foreign exchange on all imports is made up through accelerated exports for which measures are being continuously taken through appropriate changes in policies & programmes in consultation with trade & industry.

White Paper on Sugar Sector

508. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was planning to prepare any White-Paper regarding the sugar sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Decontrol of Sugar Approved by Committee of Secretaries

509. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries had approved a proposal to decontrol sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?